plorations are unmanned scientific studies.

(c) Does not arise.

Fire at Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur

1043. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether clear evidence of terrorists have come in light in sabotaging the Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur on March 23, 1988;

(b) if so, whether any further investigations have since been made to find out the exact cause of sabotage; and

(c) by when the committee appointed by Government to probe the circumstances will submit its report and what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) There was no immediate evidence of sabotage by terrorists.

(b) A Court of Inquiry has already been ordered to ascertain the cause of fire and to go into other important aspects of the incident. Another investigating agency has also gone into the matter.

(c) The Inquiry is likely to be completed during this month and the report is expected thereafter. Further action will depend on report of the Court of Inquiry.

Meeting between Indian and Sri Lankan Prime Minister

1044. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka visited India in April this year and held discussions with the Prime Minister;

(b) if so, what was the nature of discussions held between the two Prime Ministers and the decision taken thereon;

(c) whether Government have taken exception to the press note issued by the Sri Lankan High Commission in India regarding the meeting; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka visited India in April as the leader of the Sri Lankan delegation to the 11th session of the U.N. Commission on Human Settlements. During his stay in Delhi, he called on Prime Minister. As this was purely a courtesy call no official discussions were held or decisions taken on bilateral matters.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government were surprised at the unilateral issue of a press release on informal exchanges during a private courtesy call on the Prime Minister. Further, the press release had quoted our Prime Minister selectively, out of context and inaccurately.

Passport to Win Chadha

1045. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a temporary passport for a limited period had been granted to Win Chadha to enable him to come to India and to appear before the Joint Committee of Parliament which was enquiring into Bofors deal;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Win Chadha has been permitted to leave India after his appearnce before the Committee; and

(d) if so, what are the details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A one-year validity passport endorsed only for US and UK was issued to Shri Chdha by the Consulate General of India, New York, on 8.4.1988.

(c) and (d) The relevant provisions of the Passport Act 1967 would apply in his case. Hearing in a court case filed against him by the Enforcement Directorate before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi, is fixed for 6.5.1988.

Posting of husband and wife at the same station

1046. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have laid any norms to ensure that husband and wife in Government service or Central undertakings are posted in the same station to the extent possible;

(b) whether the guidelines give scope for the transfer of an employee of a Public undertaking viz. State Bank of India to the station of the spouse if the spouse is employed under the State Government;

(c) whether any of the persons working in the officers cadre of State Bank of India, Raipur Region has applied for transfer to Andhra Pradesh, the State in which their spouses are employed;

(d) if so, since when their applications are lying pending with the concerned officers; and

(e) what are the reasons for not posting such persons to the stations where their spouses are employed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Guidelines have been issued in April, 1986 regarding posting of spouses at the same station in respect of employees of Central Government and Central Public Undertakings subject to fulfilment of certain administrative requirements.

(b) As a follow up of these guidelines, the Department of Economic Affairs (Banking Division) have issued in Aug., 1987 guidelines to all Banks on the modalities of posting of husband and wife who happen to be the employees of public sector banks —be it in the same bank or of two different banks. Cases where one spouse belongs to a public sector bank and the other to Govt./Semi-Govt./Public sector undertaking are not covered by the said instructions.

(c) to (e) The State Bank of India has reported that an application was received in October, 1985 from an officer under Regional Office Raipur for a transfer to Hyderabad Circle on the ground that his wife is a Teacher with the local Municipal School. No other application for transfer to Andhra Pradesh has been received from Officers working in the Raipur Region. Postings and Transfers in Banks are day-to-day administrative matters of the Banks and Government do not monitor/interfare in it. It is understood that the application of the officer has been duly registered and the transfer of the officer will be effected as and when his turn comes in accordance with the policy/practice followed by the circle.